

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



BISHOPS DOWN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

4th March 2022, week 22, Term 4

Dear Parents

Over the past couple of weeks the school has been buzzing with so many extra curricular activities; it really feels like we are getting back to normal at last! However, we are still dealing with significant teacher and TA absence across the school; Covid hasn't quite finished with us yet! we are particularly short of staff in Beehive at the moment and there is a very real danger that we may have to close for certain days or limit hours of after school care. We do have adverts on social media so if you know of anyone interested in a play-worker position, please forward to them.

This term we have welcomed Becky Dunmall to our support staff team of Nursery TAs and we say a very fond farewell to Ellie Sheldon (TA and Beehive play-worker) who is leaving us this week to commence her Police training; best wishes Ellie, you will be great! Pennie McCredie will be joining year 3 as a TA next week.



Support for Ukraine

Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine at this most worrying time. At Bishops Down we are a strong community and we will play our part in supporting all of our families with Eastern European connections that are being affected by the conflict.

On **Friday 18th March** we are having a fundraising day for the Ukraine refugee crisis. On this date we are asking children to come into school dressed in their own clothes, with a suggested minimum donation of £1 which will go to [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee](#) (*The UK Government will match donations from the public pound-for-pound up to £20 million, meaning your support will go even further.*) Please make your donations on Gateway under the Payment option 'Ukraine Refugee Crisis'.

It is always difficult to discuss these issues with young children; there is a balance between discussing the news which they are hearing and seeing, and not causing them to worry unnecessarily. As a school, teachers will address the war with their class, if it is something the children raise. We will ensure we discuss it at an appropriate level for them to understand. We will listen to concerns they have and seek to reassure them.

If your child and/or your family is affected by the war and you would appreciate additional support and someone to talk to please let the office know and we will seek out the best options for you. We are here to help.

School Emergency Procedures

You will all be aware that the school conducts regular fire drills, you may not be aware that we are required to have a Lockdown Procedure in place in case of an intruder, a poisonous gas cloud or such like. We will be conducting a Lockdown drill next week, so we would appreciate you preparing your child if you know they find the alarm noise distressing. On hearing the alarm the children will be required to go under tables if able to do so, and classroom doors will be locked and blinds put down. We will inform the children that it is just like a fire drill and that it would be unlikely we would have to do it for real. If children are physically unable to go under tables then a personalised safety plan will be put in place.

Bishops Down is in the Ofsted inspection 'window' so we are expecting a call any time. Before Ofsted arrive on site they will be reviewing **Parent View**– the Ofsted online portal for parents to express their views of the school. Please visit the survey at:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Your views will give the inspectors a picture of the school before they arrive. Please note the school isn't able to access the results of the survey prior to the visit, so if you have any concerns relating to your child please contact us directly so we can address matters swiftly for you; don't wait for the inspection as we can't be sure of exactly when it will happen. Thank you.

Pancake making in Year 1



Reading Adventure Day



Years 4, 5 & 6 taking part in the Healthy eating roadshow.

Year 4,5,6, took part in a healthy eating workshop delivered by Tonbridge and West Kent Sports Partnership. They learnt the importance healthy eating has on our lifestyles and how a balanced diet can help us during sport. They used bikes to make smoothies which they absolutely loved!



World Book Day with a Platinum Jubilee theme this year.



Last term a team from year 3 and 4 represented the school in Indoor Athletics. The children enjoyed competing in a variety of events. We were impressed with their sportsmanship behaviour and their enthusiasm. There were some outstanding individual results in the boys chest push and javelin, and in the mixed speed bounce. Everyone added to our final score, placing us mid-table in the results.



Roman Day for Years 3 & 4

